

# Watson and Theischinger: the etymology of the dragonfly (*Insecta: Odonata*) names which they published

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### Abstract

Tony Watson and Gunther Theischinger have been prolific publishers on the taxonomy of Australian Odonata since the late 1960s. Between them they have named about 12% of the Australian genera and 28% of the species. The etymology of the scientific name of each of their taxa is given as quoted in the original description or deduced.

**Keywords:** *Odonata*, dragonflies, etymology, Theischinger, Watson

### Introduction

At present, the odonate fauna of Australia comprises 325 species in 114 genera, including subgenera (Theischinger and Endersby 2009) and is considered to be well known. The discovery and naming of these species falls approximately into three eras (Table 1). During the first of these, all Australian Odonata were referred to European experts, dominated eventually by Baron Michel Edmond de Sélys Longchamps in the latter half of the 19th century, who described 39 Australian species and 22 of our current genera. The second era was dominated by R.J. Tillyard, an Australian-based World authority who described 87 species and 21 genera. Other contributions during this phase were made by F.C. Fraser and several European taxonomists. The third era, which slightly overlaps the previous one, was dominated by J.A.L. Watson and Gunther Theischinger, whose contributions and collaborations are given in Table 2. Between them they have named about 12% of the Australian genera of Odonata and 28% of the species. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when many Australian species of

dragonflies were described, original descriptions rarely included an explanation of the etymology. In more recent times that has changed, with the explanation sometimes actually specifying the Latin grammatical status of the new name. Nevertheless not all recent names are easily understood, and it is the aim of this paper to clarify them.

|                |              | GENERA | SPECIES |
|----------------|--------------|--------|---------|
| 1770-1906      | European Era | 57     | 116     |
| 1907-1958      | Tillyard Era | 35     | 114     |
| 1959 – present | Recent Era   | 22     | 95      |
|                |              | 114    | 325     |

Table 1. Description of the Australian species of Odonata

|                          | GENERA | SPECIES |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| Brown & Theischinger     |        | 1       |
| Theischinger             | 4      | 32      |
| Theischinger & O'Farrell |        | 4       |
| Theischinger & Watson    | 1      | 11      |
| Watson                   | 8      | 32      |
| Watson & Arthington      |        | 1       |
| Watson & Moulds          |        | 2       |
| Watson & Theischinger    |        | 8       |
|                          | 13     | 91      |

Table 2. Australian Odonata taxa named by Watson, Theischinger and their associates

John Anthony Linthorne Watson (1935 – 1993) graduated from the University of Western Australia with a scholarship that

enabled him to work in the laboratory of Sir Vincent Wigglesworth at Cambridge University. After a period in Cleveland, Ohio he returned to Australia as a Queen Elizabeth II Fellow studying silverfish, and was then appointed to the Division of Entomology, CSIRO to research the biology and taxonomy of termites. Although working officially on termites, his love of dragonflies never waned and he became one of the world's leading odonatologists. He and Günther Theischinger have collaborated extensively.

Günther Theischinger (1940 – ) was Curator of Invertebrates at the Oberösterreichisches Landmuseum in Linz prior to coming to Australia. Here he worked for nearly 20 years in private industry before he was given the opportunity of curating all the aquatic insect orders in the Division of Entomology, CSIRO and of working as a taxonomist identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates for Environment Protection Authority/Office of Environment and Heritage. He has published extensively on the taxonomy of Plecoptera, Megaloptera, Tipulidae and Odonata. He is a Research Associate at the Australian Museum and a Visiting Fellow at the Smithsonian Institute.

This paper provides the etymology of each of the genus and species-group names for the taxa described by Watson, Theischinger and their collaborators.

## Methods

All original descriptions of the taxa involved were sighted. The following hierarchy is used to analyse each entry:

- (1) When the etymology is included it has been directly quoted;
- (2) If the etymology is not quoted but the Greek or Latin roots are obvious then a search has been made of the original

description for the terms which best match those roots;

- (3) If no obvious characters are apparent, the roots are given with some speculation as to how they might apply

Derivations of the genera *Aeshna*, Fab., *Agrion*, Fab., *Argiolestes*, Selys, *Austrogomphus*, Selys, *Austrolestes*, Till. *Cordulia*, Leach, and *Libellula*, Linn. are given also as they form part of the compound names of a number of genera described by the recent authors, or are included in the discussion.

Direct quotations from references are given in single inverted commas. Square brackets are used for translations, clarifications and comments.

The names of genera are, by convention, nouns in the nominative case. The gender of each (masculine, feminine or neuter) is given in {braces} at the end of its entry. The grammatical status of each species name is given in braces at the end of the entry, viz. a noun in apposition; a noun in the genitive case (usually an eponym); a declinable adjective or participle. Theischinger uses the German convention of using the figure 3 associated with a Latin adjective to indicate that three gender endings are available to agree with genus names of different genders, e.g: for first and second declension adjectives – lewisianus 3 = lewisianus (masculine), lewisiana (feminine) lewisianum (neutral). The provision of declensions is significant especially should the species name be at any time transferred to a genus of different gender from the original under ICZN regulations (ICZN 2000). The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) acts as adviser and arbiter for the zoological community by generating and disseminating information on the correct use of the scientific names of animals. It has

responsibility for producing the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature – a set of rules for the naming of animals and the resolution of nomenclatural problems.

The page numbers given with each generic or specific name refer to the page from which the quotation is taken. They do not necessarily come from the original description

but could be from the introduction to the paper or its acknowledgements.

Williams (2005) was an excellent source for determining the probable construction of each genus and species name, if it had not been defined by the author. Greek roots were taken from Liddell and Scott (1996). Latin roots were from Collins (2005). The abbreviations Gr. = Greek and L. = Latin.

### Etymology of the scientific names

*Adversaeschna* Watson, 1992: 469, 470

‘*Adversus*, opposite in physical position.’ ‘This comparison between *Aeshna brevistyla* and its congeners confirms its taxonomic isolation, except from *Oreaeschna*.’ + *aeschna* (q.v.). {Feminine}

*Aeshna* Fabricius, 1775: 424

*Aeshna* Fabricius, 1775 was published originally without citation of its derivation. Hemming (1958) records that Mr. R. A. Muttkowski had submitted a case for amending the ‘barbaric *Aeshna* to. *Aeshna*, a *lapsus calami* being assumed’. He argued *inter alia* that *Aeshna* is not a Greek spelling and ‘Fabricius being a purist, as is evident from most of his generic names, the elision of ‘c’ in *Aeshna* suggests a typographical error’.

In searching for possible derivations Muttkowski quoted αἰσχρός = ugly and αἰσχύνω = disfigured (after death), with a preference for the latter as the former would lead to *Aeschnus*. Quoting the submission and other references, The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (Hemming 1958) recognised that a certain amount of speculation was required in arriving at the derivation of the name. It declared that it was of the ‘opinion that since the original publication of *Aeshna* Fabricius, 1775, 424–425, does not indicate clearly the origin of the word, it is not evident that there is either an error of transcription, a *lapsus calami*, or a typographical error present. It is, therefore, the opinion of the Commission that the original spelling, namely, *Aeshna*, should be preserved.’

However, *-aeschna* is retained in compound names such as *Adversaeschna*, *Austroaeschna*, *Notoaeschna*, *Spinaeschna*, and many other extralimital ones also {Feminine}

*Agrion* Fabricius, 1775: 425

*Agrion* was the name established by Fabricius (1775) to contain all of the Zygoptera. It is derived from Gr. ἄγριος = living in the fields or ‘wild’, and Fliedner (2006) suggests this was chosen because the insects live in the fields rather than domestic areas. {Neuter, although Fabricius treated the name as Feminine}

*aleison*, *Austrolestes* Watson & Moulds, 1979: 144

‘αλεισον, a goblet, referring to the goblet-shaped mark on abdominal segment 2 of the male.’ Gr. ἄλεισον. {noun in apposition}

*Apocordulia* Watson, 1980: 287

‘From the Greek *apo*, from or away, referring to the divergence of these dragonflies from normal corduliid appearance.’ Gr. ἀπό = from or away + *Cordulia* (q.v.). {Feminine}

*Argiolestes* Selys, 1862: 38

Selys’ intent is not known but, whether by design or default, he has used argio- as an anagram of agrio- itself based on the genus *Agrion* (q.v.). In naming Sous-genre 1 – *Argiocnemis* and Sous-genre 2 – *Agriocnemis*, within Genre 4 – *Argiocnemis*, Selys (1877), provides another example of this construction. Rambur (1842) had previously taken a similar path in naming the North American genus *Argia* with a name signifying its closeness to *Agrion* ‘par le ptérostigma et les deux nervules du premier espace costal elles se rapprochent des *Agrion*’. [in the the pterostigma and two veins of the first costal space they approach *Agrion*]. In discussing *Argia* Rambur, 1842, Fliedner (2006) dismisses Greek mythology as a source and argues that Rambur looked for a name as similar to *Agrion* as possible without causing confusion. Perhaps Selys took this approach as his model. {Masculine}

*atratus*, *Hemigomphus* Watson, 1991a: 316, 315

‘*Atratus*, clothed in black’ referring to ‘Abdomen. Substantially blackish brown to black;’ L. *atratus* –a –um. {declinable adjective}

*aureum*, *Pseudagrion ignifer* Theischinger, 1997a: 802

‘aureus 3 = Latin for “golden”, referring to the pale yellow face of the male.’ L. *aureus* –a –um. {declinable adjective}

*Austrogomphus* Selys, 1854

L. *auster* (stem *austro*-) = south wind, hence south (meaning Australia) + Gr. γόμφος = peg, bolt or pin, alluding to the shape of the male abdomen in most species, which appears like the bolt used for ship building. {Masculine}

*Austrolestes* Tillyard, 1913: 410, 421-424

L. *auster* (stem *austro*-) = south wind, hence south (meaning Australia) applied to the genus *Lestes* from Gr. ληστής = robber. Tillyard (1913) provides the root (incorrectly spelled) and disputes Selys’ assignation of the female gender. ‘Greek ληστής = a robber or pirate, masculine (rarely used in the common gender). I have therefore treated *Lestes* and its derivations as masculine, though de Selys used feminine terminations with them’. {Masculine}



*barbarae*, *Lestoidea* Watson, 1967a

Although not acknowledged in the original description, this species was obviously named for the author's wife, Barbara. {noun in the genitive case}

*baroalba*, *Nososticta* Watson & Theischinger, 1984: 7

'Holotype ♂: Baroalba Creek springs, 19 km NE. by N. of Mt Cahill, Northern Territory' {noun in apposition}

*bicolor*, *Notolibellula* Theischinger & Watson, 1977: 417

'In 1968, Watson encountered specimens of a vivid blue and red, broad-bodied libelluline dragonfly in the Kimberley region, in the north of Western Australia.' L. bicolor –or –or. {declinable adjective}

*boumiera*, *Orthetrum* Watson & Arthington, 1978: 152

'The specific name is derived from the Aboriginal name for Brown Lake, North Stradbroke Island. It is to be treated as an undeclinable noun.' {noun in apposition}

*brevicauda*, *Lestoidea* Theischinger, 1996b: 318

'A combination of the L. brevis (= short) and L. cauda (= tail) refers to the short inferior appendages of the male.' {noun in apposition}

*brookhousei*, *Austroargiolestes* Theischinger & O'Farrell, 1986: 409

'The species is dedicated to Mr P. Brookhouse who was much involved in collecting material for this study.' {noun in the genitive case}

*bucki*, *Griseargiolestes* Theischinger, 1998e: 623

'Dedication to Dr K. Buck of Wilster, Germany, prolific photographer of Australian dragonflies.' {noun in the genitive case}

*christine*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1993: 806

'After my wife Christine; to be treated as a noun in apposition.' {noun in apposition}

*christine*, *Austroargiolestes* Theischinger & O'Farrell, 1986: 394

'The species is named after Mrs Christine Theischinger, *christine* being regarded as a noun in apposition to the generic name.' {noun in apposition}

*convergens*, *Micromidia* Theischinger & Watson, 1978: 423

'the superiors ... slightly longer than inferior, convergent, with strong ventrobasal tooth in *M. convergens*.' L. convergens –ens –ens. {declinable present participle.}

*coolawanyah*, *Eurysticta* Watson, 1969a: 67

Although the type locality is Deep Reach, Fortescue R., Millstream Station, WA, the species is named for Coolawanyah Station, Pilbara, WA. {noun in apposition}

*cooloola*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1991: 39

First described as a subspecies of *A. unicornis*. Type locality: 'Searys Creek near Rainbow Beach, Cooloola National Park, Queensland.' {noun in apposition}

*cooloola*, *Hemigomphus* Watson, 1991a: 321

'From Cooloola National Park, in southern Queensland, the only locality where this species has been found; to be treated as a noun in apposition.' {noun in apposition}

*coomalie*, *Eurysticta* Watson, 1991b: 28

'The name refers to the locality from which this insect was first recognised [Coomalie Creek, Northern Territory]; used as a noun in apposition.' {noun in apposition}

*Cordulia* Leach, 1815: 137

Leach (1815) introduced the genus name *Cordulia*, without explanation. It is the adjectival form of the Gr. κορδύλη = club or cudgel, alluding to the shape of the abdomen in the males of the genus *Cordulia*. {Feminine}

*cornutus*, *Austrogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 392

'*Cornutus*, horned, referring to the horn on the male occiput.' L. *cornutus* –a –um. {declinable adjective}

*cristatus*, *Episynlestes* Watson & Moulds, 1977: 258

L. *cristatus* –a –um = with a crest, plume or comb.

'Superior appendages ... each bearing crest of black setae approximately 0.8 mm long, the crests interlocking at their bases.' {declinable adjective}

*deniseae*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1977: 105

'The new species is named after my daughter, Denise.' {noun in the genitive case}

*dentosus*, *Antipodogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 349

'Referring to the large, composite tooth on each side of the female occiput.' L. *dentosus* –a –um having teeth. {declinable adjective}

*divaricatus*, *Austrogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 421

'Referring to the divaricate superior appendages of the male, and emphasising the close affinity with *Austrogomphus bifurcatus*.' L. *divaricatus* –a –um = spread apart. {declinable perfect participle}

*dobsoni*, *Ictinogomphus* (Watson, 1969a): 88

'Two subspecies have hitherto been recognized, *I. a. australis* and a darker form, *I. a. lieftincki* (Schmidt, 1934), the former occurring in Queensland, the type locality, and the Northern Territory, and the latter in New Guinea, Halmahera, and the Solomons. The specimens from the Hamersley Range are paler than either of these two subspecies, particularly on the abdomen, and may therefore be designated *I. a. dobsoni*, subsp. nov.' R. Dobson is cited as collector of extralimital (Queensland) material. Roderick Dobson

collected dragonflies and other aquatic insects in Australia between 1948 and 1958, and made a return visit from his home in Jersey, Channel Islands in 1967-68. {noun in the genitive case}

*donnellyi*, *Odontogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 337

'Named for its discoverer, odonatist and geologist T.W. Donnelly.' {noun in the genitive case}

*edentulus*, *Antipodogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 352

'Lacking teeth, in reference to the unarmed occiput in the female.' [cf. *Antipodogomphus dentosus*] L. *edentulus*, -a -um = toothless. {declinable adjective}

*elke*, *Austroargiolestes* Theischinger & O'Farrell, 1986: 396

'The species is named after Mrs Elke Müller, the wife of one of its collectors, *elke* being regarded as a noun in apposition to the generic name.' {noun in apposition}

*eungella*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1993: 810

'From Eungella, in north-eastern Queensland; to be treated as a noun in apposition.' {noun in apposition}

*Eurysticta* Watson, 1969a: 83

'The name of the new genus, derived from the Greek ευρύς [= wide, broad], emphasizes the broadness of the abdomen in both sexes, and the additional swelling of the ninth segment in the female.' Gr. εὐρύς = wide + sticta which is derived from the Gr. adjective στικτός = spotted, tattooed, but, in this case, the root refers to the subfamily Isostictinae Fraser, in which it was placed. {Feminine}

*flava*, *Hemicordulia* Theischinger & Watson, 1991: 44

'*flavus*, yellow, refers to the extensive yellow coloration.' L. *flavus* -a -um. {declinable adjective}

*fraseri*, *Neosticta* Watson, 1991b: 36

'Named for the late F.C. Fraser who, in 1960, illustrated this species (as *Neosticta silvarum*).' {noun in the genitive case}

*frater*, *Austrosticta* Theischinger, 1997b: 807

'Frater = Latin for "brother", a match for soror (= Latin for "sister").' {noun in apposition}

*garrisoni*, *Lathrocordulia* Theischinger & Watson, 1991: 48

'Named in honour of its discoverer, Rosser Garrison.' {noun in the genitive case}

*geminata*, *Notoaeschna* Theischinger, 1982: 36

'Tillyard (1916) named as 'var. *geminata*' specimens from Guy Fawkes (Ebor), N.S.W., which he thought belonged to *N. sagittata* (Martin). Although Tillyard did not expressly

allocate infrasubspecific status to the variety, there is, as Watson (1969b) has pointed out, no reason to suppose that 'var. *geminata*' is anything more than infrasubspecific. However, as Tillyard's specimens of 'var. *geminata*' are not conspecific with *N. sagittata*, I here use *geminata* as the name of a new species of *Notoaeschna*, based on Tillyard's series from Ebor.'

Tillyard (1916: 59) 'a very fine and long series taken by me at Guy Fawkes, N.S.W., is distinct enough to warrant a varietal name. I therefore propose for it the name var. *geminata* defined by the following characters:- ... Sagittate dorsal spots of abdomen much reduced, each being split into two geminate [paired] subtriangular halves separated by the black line of the dorsal ridge.' *L. geminatus* –a –um = doubled, twinned. {declinable perfect participle}

*gordoni*, *Austroepigomphus* (Watson, 1962): 8

Name first made available in a checklist (p. 8) to the Dragonflies of South-western Australia, and in keys to the larvae (p. 13) and adults (p. 20). From Watson (1969a: 90) 'This species, inadvertently named in Watson (1962), is most closely related to *A. turneri* Martin, 1901, from northern Queensland and the Northern Territory. ... The specific name commemorates Mr. Stewart Gordon, of a family long associated with Millstream and Kangiangi Stations [Pilbara, WA]' {noun in the genitive case}

*Griseargiolestes* Theischinger, 1998d: 614

'Combination of grise (from griseus [= grey, pearl-grey] ) and *Argiolestes* [q.v.]' referring to the pruinescence attained by the species. {Masculine}

*hesperia*, *Petalura* Watson, 1958: 116, 120

'Derived from the Greek ἑσπερος – western' referring to 'This new species, the first recorded from Western Australia.' Gr. adj. ἑσπέριος –ία –ιον = towards evening, hence western. {declinable adjective}

*hodgkini*, *Antipodogomphus* Watson, 1969a: 110

'Dr. E.P. Hodgkin, Department of Zoology, University of Western Australia, provided the initial material on which the project was based, and supervised the early stages of the work.' {noun in the genitive case}

*ingrid*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 2008: 242

'The species is named for my granddaughter Ingrid, her name being used as a noun in apposition to the generic name.' {noun in apposition}

*inijibandi*, *Nannophlebia* Watson, 1969a: 100

'The name commemorates the Inijibandi tribe, which previously occupied the tableland adjacent to Millstream.' {noun in apposition}



*intermedius*, *Episynlestes* Theischinger & Watson, 1985: 146

‘As the name implies, *E. intermedius* bridges the gap between *E. albicauda* and *E. cristatus*, it is intermediate in some characters, like *E. albicauda* in some, and like *E. cristatus* in others.’  
L. adj. *intermedius* –a –um = intermediary. {declinable adjective}

*isabellae*, *Austroargiolestes* Theischinger & O’Farrell, 1986: 400

‘The species is dedicated to Mrs Isabel O’Farrell.’ {noun in the genitive case}

*jedda*, *Pseudagrion* Watson & Theischinger, 1991: 26

‘Named for Jedda in the 1955 film of that name; parts of the film were set in Katherine Gorge. [Type locality – Katherine River, NT]. To be treated as a noun in apposition.’  
{noun in apposition}

*jurzitzai*, *Austrocordulia refracta*, Theischinger, 1999d: 381

‘Dedication to Professor Gerhard Jurzitza who acted incredibly fast and unselfish when the undescribed larval material of *Gomphomacromia* Brauer was needed for a study of the Australian Gomphomacromiinae (Theischinger & Watson, 1984)’. {noun in the genitive case}

*kalliste*, *Hemicordulia* Theischinger & Watson, 1991: 46

‘The name commemorates ‘Kalliste’, the home of the late Dr. M.A. Liefinck and his wife Corrie, in Rhenen, the Netherlands.’ Kalliste, from the Gr. superlative adjective *καλλιστη* = most pretty. {noun in apposition}

*kalumburu*, *Nososticta* Watson & Theischinger, 1984: 14

‘Holotype ♂: ... Drysdale River, Western Australia’ Kalumburu and Kalumburu Community (formerly Drysdale River Mission) are both localities within the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley. {noun in apposition}

*koolpinyah*, *Nososticta* Watson & Theischinger, 1984: 16

‘Holotype ♂: ... Black Jungle, Koolpinyah Station, Northern Territory’ {noun in apposition}

*koomina*, *Hemicordulia* Watson, 1969a: 97

‘Material. – 2 ♀ (bred from larvae), Koomina Pool, Tanberry Creek [Sherlock River system, Hamersley Range WA]’ {noun in apposition}

*koongarra*, *Nososticta* Watson & Theischinger, 1984: 20

‘Paratypes 15 ♂, 7 ♀, Koongarra ... 15 km E. of Mt Cahill, [NT]’ plus three other collections from the same locality. {noun in apposition}

*kunjina*, *Agriocnemis* Watson, 1969a: 76

‘Material. ... 1 ♀, Kunjina Spring, Daniel’s Well [Station]’. Fortescue River System, Hamersley Range, WA. {noun in apposition}

*kununurra*, *Eurysticta* Watson, 1991b: 31

Type locality: Ord River and Packsaddle Plains, Kununurra, Western Australia. 'The name is to be used as a noun in apposition.' {noun in apposition}

*Labidiosticta* Watson, 1991b: 22

'Name derived from the Greek *labidion*, small tongs, referring to the shape of the male superior appendages.' Gr. λαβίδιον = pair of tweezers + -sticta which is derived from the Gr. adjective στικτός = spotted, tattooed, but, in this case, the root refers to the second phrase of the genus *Phasmosticta*, in which *L. vallis* was originally included, rather than necessarily being a character of the species itself. {Feminine}

*leonardi*, *Austrocordulia* Theischinger, 1973: 388

'Ich möchte meinem Freund, Herrn Leonard Müller, der viele Tage mit mir auf Exkursionen in Australien verbrachte, für seine wertvolle Hilfe danken.'

[I want to thank my friend, Mr. Leonard Mueller, who spent many days with me on trips in Australia, for his valuable help.] {noun in the genitive case}

*lewisiana*, *Lestoidea* Theischinger, 1996b: 320

'Lewisianus 3 = Latinized for "from Mount Lewis" L. lewisianus -a -um {declinable adjective}

*Libellula* Linnaeus, 1758: 543

Linnaeus erected *Libellula* for all known Odonata. Two derivations have been postulated (1) the diminutive of the Latin *libella*, a carpenter's level which was T-shaped or (2) from the Latin *libellus*, the diminutive of *liber*, meaning a little book, perhaps as a reference to wings folding like pages of a book, but this alternative has little support.

Corbet 1999: 561-562 discusses the alternatives at length and concludes that 'the resemblance of the zygopteran larva to a T-shaped balance, as typified by the hammerhead shark [*Libella marina* Rondelet], is responsible for the generic name *Libellula*.' Tillyard (1917), without citing references, reports that Littré guesses *libellus* (petit livre) while Professor MacCallum prefers 'a diminutive of *libella* (a balance) on account of the way that these insects poise their wings in flight or at rest.' Fraser (1950) champions the Rondelet analogy while Fliedner (1997) dismisses the derivation of *libellus* as being linguistically incorrect. 'Die Ableitung des Wortes libellula von *libellus* (= Büchlein; Diminutive zu *liber* = Buch) ist nicht möglich, da dieses Wort maskulin ist und nur eine Verkleinerung *libellulus* (= Büchelchen) hervorbringen könnte.' [To derive the word *libellula* from *libellus* (= booklet; diminutive of *liber* = book) is not possible, as this word is of masculine gender and its diminutive only could be *libellulus* (= little booklet)]. {Feminine}

*Lithosticta* Watson, 1991b: 22

'Name derived from the Greek *lithos*, alluding to the stony habitats from which these damselflies have been recorded.' Gr. λίθος = stone + -sticta which is derived from the Gr. στικτός = spotted, tattooed, but, in this case, the root refers to the second phrase of

the family Isostictidae rather than necessarily being a character of the species *L. macra* itself. {Feminine}

*litorea*, *Petalura* Theischinger, 1999a: 160

'Litoreus 3 = Latin for "belonging to the shore": *L. litoreus* –a –um. {declinable adjective}

*liveringa*, *Nososticta* Watson & Theischinger, 1984: 23

'Paratypes: Western Australia: ... 8 ♂, 9 ♀, Camballin, Fitzroy River barrage dam ...'  
Most probably the locality Lower Liveringa Pool, Camballin WA, Australia. {noun in apposition}

*longipositor*, *Zephyrogomphus* (Watson, 1991a): 341

'Referring to the extraordinarily long ovipositor.' {noun in apposition}

*lucifer*, *Pseudagrion* Theischinger, 1997a: 803

'lucifer = Latin for "morning-star", referring to the bright face of the male.'  
{noun in apposition.}

*macra*, *Lithosticta* Watson, 1991b: 34

'Name derived from the Latin *macer*, lean.' Feminine form of the *L.* adj, *macer*, *macra*, *macrum*. {declinable adjective}

*macrops*, *Apocordulia* Watson, 1980: 287

'From the Greek *makros*, long, and *ops*, eye, referring to the long eye seam; a noun in apposition.' Gr. μακρός = long + Gr. ὄψ = eye. {noun in apposition}

*magela*, *Hemigomphus* Watson, 1991a: 324

'From Magela Creek, in western Arnhem Land; to be treated as a noun in apposition.'  
{noun in apposition}

*magnifica*, *Archaeophya* Theischinger & Watson, 1978

*L. magnificus* –a –um = great, splendid. There is nothing in the original description to indicate which aspects of this species warrant the epithet 'magnificent'. Both species in the genus are large and metallic black with yellow markings. {declinable adjective}

*melvillensis*, *Huonia* Brown & Theischinger, 1998: 99

'a species of *Huonia* was collected as part of a freshwater survey of Melville Island. Since it is different from all described species, it is described as new below.' A derived adjective indicating place of origin. *L. melvillensis* –is –e. {declinable adjective}

*Miniargiolestes* Theischinger, 1998d: 615

'Combination of mini (from minimus) and *Argiolestes* [q.v.].' {Masculine}

*minjerriba*, *Austrolestes* Watson, 1979: 147

‘*minjerriba*, the Aboriginal name for North Stradbroke Island, where the species was first discovered; to be treated as an undeclinable noun.’ {noun in apposition}

*mouldsi*, *Nososticta* Theischinger, 2000: 1175

‘Dedication to Dr M.S. Moulds.’ {noun in the genitive case}

*mouldsorum*, *Austrogomphus* Theischinger, 1999b: 369

‘Dedication to the collectors M.S. and B.J. Moulds.’ {noun in the genitive case plural}

*mudginberri*, *Nannophlebia* Watson & Theischinger, 1991: 49

‘Named after Mudginberri Station [Northern Territory, 12° 35’ 49”, 132° 52’ 20”]; name to be treated as an undeclinable noun.’ {noun in apposition}

*muelleri*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1982: 45

‘I also wish to express my special gratitude to my friends Mr L. Müller (Berowa) and Dr J.A.L. Watson (Canberra) who supported my work in many ways.’ {noun in the genitive case}

*netta*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1999c: 374

‘Dedication to Mrs N. Smith, cocollector of this species.’ {noun in apposition}

*Notolibellula* Theischinger & Watson, 1977: 417

‘With the characters of the subfamily Libellulinae (*sensu* Fraser 1957).’ and ‘Subsequent investigations have shown not only that the species is undescribed, but also that its characteristics do not fit any of the described genera of Libellulinae (*sensu* Fraser 1957)’. When naming *Notoaeschna* Tillyard, (1916: 58) advised ‘Greek Νότος, the South Wind. The prefixed *Noto-* and *Austro-* may conveniently be used to denote purely Australian genera.’ *Notolibellula* uses the same construction, viz., νότος + *Libellula* (q.v.) to recognise its southern/Australian distribution as opposed to *Libellula* which is predominantly a European genus. {Feminine}

*nourlangie*, *Gynacantha* Theischinger & Watson, 1991: 41

Named for Nourlangie Creek, West Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. ‘Name to be treated as an undeclinable noun.’ {noun in apposition}

*obiri*, *Indolestes* Watson, 1979: 152

‘*obiri*, for Obiri (Oberie) Rock, a habitat of this cave-haunting lepidid; to be treated as an undeclinable noun.’ {noun in apposition}

*obscura*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1982

‘I named *A. obscura* so because it is markedly darker than *A. multipunctata*, with the pale anterodorsal spots in mature adults usually no longer present from segment 4 or at least 5’ (G. Theischinger, in litt. November 2011). *L. obscurus* –a –um = obscured, dark. {declinable adjective}



*obscura*, *Austrocnemis* Theischinger & Watson, 1991: 24

'The name alludes to the obscure coloration of this species, in contrast to its more brightly coloured congener, *A. splendida*.' L. *obscurus* –a –um = obscured, dark. {declinable adjective}

*Odontogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 334

'*Odon*, a tooth, referring to the dentate 11<sup>th</sup> abdominal sternite of the male.'  
Gr. ὀδών = tooth + *Gomphus* (see *Austrogomphus*). {Masculine}

*ofarrelli*, *Tonyosynthemis* (Theischinger & Watson, 1986): 457

'We describe it here, and dedicate it to Professor A.F. O'Farrell, previously Professor of Zoology in the University of New England, Armidale, Australia, in honour of his 70th birthday (9 January, 1987) and in recognition of the great contribution he has made to the knowledge of the Australian Odonata.' {noun in the genitive case}

*parvulus*, *Archiargiolestes* (Watson, 1977): 198

'*parvulus* – very small' L. *parvulus* –a –um. {declinable adjective}

*paulini*, *Ictinogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 302

'Named after Paulinus, the first Archbishop of York, A.D. 625' [Distribution – appears to be confined to the northern part of Cape York Peninsula]. {noun in the genitive case}

*paulsoni*, *Nannophya* Theischinger, 2003: 662

'Dedication to Dennis R. Paulson (Seattle, USA) world authority on Odonata.' {noun in the genitive case}

*pilbara*, *Nososticta* Watson, 1969a

*Nososticta solida pilbara* Watson, 1969a: 80 becomes *N. pilbara* Watson, 1984

'Although *N. pilbara* was originally described as a subspecies of *N. solida*, it is clear that the differences between the two species are at least as great as those between some of the *Nososticta* which we now regard as distinct species. The original description of *N. pilbara* was comparative, focusing on the differences between it and *N. solida*, we here describe it fully.'

Watson (1969a: 80) 'The original description of *N. solida* could equally characterize either population; but as the description applied to eastern Australian material (Selys 1886), the north-western form must be the one described as new.' and 'The specimens from the Fortescue R. [Pilbara, WA] system are smaller than those from eastern Australia.' {noun in apposition}

*pindrina*, *Austrogrion* Watson, 1969a: 68

'Additional localities ... Pindrina Spring [Sherlock River system, Hamersley Range, WA]' {noun in apposition}

*pinheyi*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 2001b: 92

First described as a subspecies of *A. unicornis*. 'Dedicated to the memory of our great colleague, Dr Elliott Pinhey.' {noun in the genitive case}

(*Pleiogomphus*) *Austrogomphus*, Watson, 1991a: 410

'Pleion, more, alluding to the apparent affinities of these gomphids to more than one subfamily.' Gr. πλεῖων = more + *Gomphus* (see *Austrogomphus*). {Masculine}

(*Pulchaeschna*) *Austroaeschna*, Peters and Theischinger, 2007: 526

Subgenus named for its type species. 'Typusart: *Austroaeschna unicornis pulchra* TILLYARD, 1909; einschließlich *A. pulchra*, *A. eungella* THEISCHINGER und *A. muelleri* THEISCHINGER.' [Type species: *Austroaeschna unicornis pulchra* Tillyard, 1909, including *A. pulchra*, *A. eungella* Theischinger and *A. muelleri* Theischinger.] L. pulcher – chra –chrum = beautiful + aeschna (q.v.) {Feminine}

*reevesi*, *Eurysticta* Theischinger, 2001a: 1291

'Dedication to Deniss Reeves, president of the Australian Dragonfly Society, who was the first to draw attention to the existence of a species of *Eurysticta* in Queensland.' {noun in the genitive case}

*rentziana*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1998c: 148

'Dedication to Dr D.C.F. Rentz of Canberra whose record of the species is the only one from south of the Hunter River.' A derived adjective with the meaning of pertaining to Rentz. L. rentzianus –a –um {declinable adjective}

*Rhadinosticta* Watson, 1991b: 22, 23

'A new genus is needed for the Australian species hitherto referred to as *Isosticta*.'

'Name derived from the Greek *rhadinos*, slender.' Gr. ραδινός + -sticta which is derived from the Gr. στικτός = spotted, tattooed, but, in this case, the root refers to the second phrase of the genus *Isosticta* in which *R. simplex* and *R. banksi* were originally described, rather than necessarily being a character of the species themselves. {Feminine}

*serapia*, *Orthetrum* Watson, 1984: 1, 2

Watson (1984) named this species for St Serapia. A slave and martyr, she was the servant of St. Sabina and was responsible for the Roman noblewoman's conversion to Christianity. Both Sabina and Serapia were subsequently beheaded during the persecutions of Emperor Hadrian. {noun in apposition}

*sigma*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1982: 21

'front of synthorax dark brown with narrow pale bluish green anterior stripe which may be much broadened in dorsal half, or even be reduced to several marks, and broad bluish green S-shaped posterior stripe reaching from collar to near antealar ridge;' {noun in apposition}

*Spinaeschna* Theischinger, 1982: 41

The author does not provide an etymology for this gen. nov. but includes '*Spinaeschna* shows affinities with the Australian genera *Austroaeschna* Selys and *Notoaeschna* Tillyard. It is distinguished from *Austroaeschna* by having ... a large spine on the supraanal plate ...'

L. spina = thorn, spine + aeschna (q.v.) {Feminine}

*stenoloba*, *Tramea* (Watson, 1962): 9, 15, 23

Name first made available in a checklist (p. 9) to the Dragonflies of South-western Australia, and in keys to the larvae (p. 15) and adults (p. 23).

In Watson (1967b: 398) 'the genital lobe is the narrowest found in the group, hence the specific name.' Thus Gr. στενός = narrow + λοβός = lobe. Fliedner (in litt.) advises that there is a Gr. adjective τρι- λοβός, -ov = three-lobed, the second element of which, when Latinized, becomes -lobus, -a, -um. {declinable adjective}

*subapicalis*, *Austroaeschna* Theischinger, 1982: 25

'.. inferior appendage black, broad, deep, truncate, with 2 upright dorsal teeth far from apex.' and the author (Theischinger in litt.) confirms this is the character from which the species was named, thus 'The two dorsal teeth on the epiproct of the male of *A. subapicalis* are not – as in *A. atrata* – at the epiproct end but well anterior to it (= subapical)'. L. preposition sub = under, beneath + L. apicalis -is -e = apical. {declinable adjective}

*subcostalis*, *Austrophlebia* Theischinger; 1996a: 307

'To express the close affinity with *A. costalis* (TILLYARD) as well as to indicate that the brown fasciae of the wings are less extensive than in *A. costalis* in costal field but at least equally extensive in subcostal field.' L. preposition sub = under, beneath + L. costalis -is -e = pertaining to the ribs. {declinable adjective}

*taracumbi*, *Nososticta* Watson & Theischinger, 1984: 34

'Holotype ♂: Taracumbi Falls, Melville Island, Northern Territory.' {noun in apposition}

*tenera*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1995b: 305

'From Latin tener, -a -um meaning delicate.' {declinable adjective}

*territoria*, *Austrocordulia* Theischinger & Watson, 1978: 409

'Holotype ♂ and associated larval skin: Baroalba Creek ... 19 km E. by N. of Mt Cahill, Northern Territory.' The author most probably deemed this to be the proper adjectival form derived from L. territorium = territory which, philologically, was not correct. {declinable adjective}

*theischingeri*, *Hemigomphus* Watson, 1991a: 331

'Named for my colleague, Günther Theischinger.' {noun in the genitive case}

*tillyardi*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1995b: 300

'Tillyard (1910) named as "var. *pallida*" specimens from the Illawarra District of New South Wales, which he thought belonged to *E. guttata* (SELYS), and expressly allocated infrasubspecific status to the variety. However, as Tillyard's specimens of "var. *pallida*" and other material from New South Wales and Victoria belong to a previously undescribed species, this species is dedicated to the great man who established the framework of the Australian dragonfly fauna.' {noun in the genitive case}

*tonyana*, *Austropetalia* Theischinger, 1995a: 292

'A tribute to the late Dr J.A.L. (Tony) Watson, great friend and odonatologist.' A derived adjective with the meaning of pertaining to Tony. L. *tonyanus* –a –um. {declinable adjective}

*Tonyosynthemis* Theischinger, 1998a: 140

'in memory of Prof. A.F.L. (Tony) O'Farrell (1917-1997) and Dr. J.A.L. (Tony) Watson (1935-1993), two unforgettable friends and outstanding odonatologists.' {Feminine}

*undia*, *Telephlebia* Theischinger, 1985: 254

'Holotype ♂, in ANIC (Type No. 9887): Queensland, Carnarvon Gorge, Aljon Falls'. Undia is an Aboriginal word meaning gorge (Reed, 2006), alluding to Carnarvon Gorge. {noun in apposition}

*ursa*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1999c: 375

'Ursa = Latin for "she-bear"; the species is markedly more massive than *E. ursula* (= Latin for "little she-bear") THEISCHINGER.' {noun in apposition}

*ursula*, *Eusynthemis* Theischinger, 1998b: 143

'after my granddaughter Ursula.' {noun in apposition}

*watsoni*, *Spinaeschna* Theischinger, 1982: 45

'I also wish to express my special gratitude to my friends Mr L Müller (Berowa) and Dr J.A.L. Watson (Canberra) who supported my work in many ways.' {noun in the genitive case}

(*Xerogomphus*) *Austroepigomphus* Watson, 1991a: 425

'Xeros, dry, referring to the dry habitats into which the ranges of both species [*Z. (Xerogomphus) turneri* and *Z. (Xerogomphus) gordonii*] extend.' Gr. ξερός = dry + *Gomphus* (see *Austrogomphus*). {Masculine}

*Zephyrogomphus* Watson, 1991a: 432

'Zephyrus, the west wind, alluding to the fact that it is known only from south-western Australia.' Gr. ζέφυρος = West wind + *Gomphus* (see *Austrogomphus*). {Masculine}



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